REMARKS

Applicants' representative, Thomas Engellenner and Reza Mollaaghababa, thank Examiner Elahee for the courtesy of a telephonic interview conducted on July 8, 2008. During the interview possible amendments to the claims were discussed. More specifically, Applicants' representative agreed to amend the step of "utilizing said Internet messaging network to access called address data for said B party from a public directory of said public network in response to selecting said B party" in claim 40 (and other claims where applicable) to recite "utilizing said Internet messaging network to send a message including identifying information of said B party to a public directory of said public network to access called address data for said B party from said public directory of said public network in response to selecting said B party." In addition, Applicants' representatives indicated that they would consider clarifying whether or nor the "connection module" recited in claim 40 (and other claims where applicable) belongs to a PTSN. In this regard, Applicants have amended the relevant claims to indicate that the connection module belongs to a "public telephone network" to clarify the claim language.

Various grounds of objections and rejections are discussed in detail below. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims Objections

Claims 40, 41, 56, and 70 have been amended in accordance with Examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections raised relative to these claims.

With regard to claim 79, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of "a call" rather than "the call" at line 8 of the claim is correct. Therefore no change has been made.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 40, 41, 42/40, 42/41, 43-46, 47/40, 47/41, 47/45, 47/46, 48, 49, 56-58, 59/56, 59/57, 60, 61, 62/60, 62/61, 63, 64/60, 64/61, 65/60, 66/61, 67/60, 67/61, 68-71, 72/69, 72/70, 73-87,

88/40, 88/41, 88/45, 88/46, 88/73, 89/40, 89/41, 89/45, 89/46, and 89/73 are rejected as being

obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,483,586 of Sussman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,032 of

Bateman.

Claim 40, as amended, recites a method of establishing a communications call, including:

enabling an A party to select a B party from a database using an interactive device connected to a

public network; said public network comprising an Internet messaging network, employing said

Internet messaging network to send a message including identifying information of said B party to a

public directory of said public network to search for called address data for said B party using said

interactive device and a search module of said public network and a database of said public network

including called address data; sending said called address data for said B party and calling address

data for the A party to a connection module of a public telephone network of said public network;

and establishing a call between said A party and said B party over said public network using said

connection module and said called and calling address data. Support for the amendments to claim 1

can be found, e.g., at paragraphs [0049] and [0059] of the published U.S. application.

As discussed in detail in response to the previous Office Action, Sussman discloses a

method whereby directories are downloaded from a central database and are saved to a subscriber's

local device. The subscriber then searches the *locally* saved directories for another party's name,

number, and other information. Once the other party's information is found within the locally saved

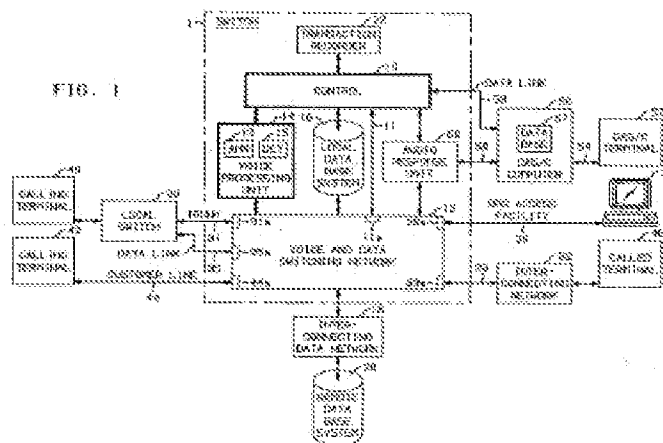directory, the subscriber can direct the local device to call the other party.

Sussman, however, does not teach utilizing an Internet messaging network to send a

message including identifying information of a party to a public directory to access the called

address data for that party. Rather, in Sussman, a subscriber searches *locally* saved directories for a

party's telephone number.

Nor does Bateman teach utilizing an Internet messaging network to send a message

including identifying information of a party to a public directory to access the called address data

for that party. Rather, in Bateman, a customer submits an HTML form in which the customer's

calling information is provided to a call center and an outbound dialing system of the call center selects an agent for calling the customer.

Accordingly, the combined teachings of Sussman and Bateman fail to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter. Hence, claim 40, and claims that depend on 40 are patentable over the cited art.

The reasoning provided above in connection with claim 40 applies to establish that independent claims 41, 45, 46, 56, 57, 60, 61, 69, 70, 73, 77, and 79, as well as claims dependent thereon, are also patentable over the cited art.

Rejections Over Padden in view of Bateman

Claims 40, 41, 45, 46, 56, 57, 61, 69, 70, 73, and 77 are rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,979,206 of Padden in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,032 of Bateman.

Padden discloses a system in which "a call for directory assistance is processed in response to voice frequency instructions from the caller without operator intervention." FIGURE 1 of Padden, which presents a schematic of its system, is reproduced below:

FIG. 1

The Padden system includes a telecommunications switch 1 having voice and/or data switching network 12 that can receive voice or keyed tone signals from a customer. The switch includes a voice processing unit (VPU) that utilizes speech recognition techniques to generate data corresponding to the received voice or keyed tone signals. A directory assistance system computer (DAS/C) employs these data to search for a telephone or directory number listing. If the desired directory listing is found, it is reported to audio response unit 60 for announcement to the customer.

Padden does not utilize a messaging network to access a directory listing desired by a customer from a public directory. In particular, the voice and/or data switching network 12 in Padden is not a messaging network. Nonetheless, the Examiner states that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Padden to incorporate messaging network as an internet messaging network as taught by Bateman." The Examiner indicates that "[T]he motivation for the modification is to have [sic] doing so in order to download subscribers lists to a user device such that the user can browse through the lists."

In response, Applicants note that there is no indication that the customer's device in Padden is capable of receiving a download of directory information or allowing the customer to browse through such directory information. In fact, the customer's device in Padden is simply a telephone.

Accordingly, amended claim 40 is believed to be patentable over the combined teachings of Padden and Bateman. Similar reasoning applies to establish that claims 41, 45, 46, 56, 57, 69 and 70 are also patentable.

Rejections Over Padden In View Of Bateman Further In View of Sussman

Claims 50, 51, and 60 are rejected as being obvious over Padden in view of Bateman further in view of Sussman.

Claim 50, as amended, recites an interface of an interactive device for originating a communications call, which includes a display controller for causing display of at least one B party

from a database to an A party and a selector for enabling an A party to select a B party from the display. The interface further includes a link which on being activated sends a message including identifying information of said B party to a public directory of a public network, whereby said public directory accesses called address data of said B party on the basis of said selected party data and forwards said called address data to a connection module of a public telephone network of said public network to establish a call between said A party and said B party.

None of the cited references teaches an interface having a link which upon activation would send a message including identifying information of a B party, selected by an A party from a display, to a public directory of a public network, whereby the public directory would access the called address data of the B party. In particular, in Padden, the caller does not select a B party from a display, nor does the caller send identifying information of a party whose telephone number is desired via a messaging network to a public directory. In Bateman, a customer does not send identifying information regarding an agent to the call center. Rather, the call center selects an agent to call the customer. In Sussman, identifying information of a party whose directory information is desired is not sent via a messaging network to a public directory in response to selection of that party from a display. Rather, the directory information is retrieved from a *locally* saved directory.

Hence, claim 50 is believed to be patentable over the combined teachings of the cited art. The same reasoning applies to establish that claims 51 and 60 are also patentable.

New Claims

Independent new claim 90 recites a method of establishing a communications call, which comprises enabling an A party to select a B party from a database using an interactive device connected to a public network, said public network comprising an Internet messaging network, utilizing said Internet messaging network to send a message including identifying information of said B party to a public directory of said public network to access called address data for said B party from a public directory of said public network in response to selecting said B party, sending said called address data for said B party and calling address data for the A party to a connection module of said public network, said connection module providing a voice channel via said

messaging network, and establishing a call between said A party and said B party using said voice channel and said called and calling address data. New claim 91 depends on 90 and further recites that the interactive device executes an Internet phone application to establish said call.

New independent claim 92 recites a method of establishing a call, including: receiving a call request from a client device over an IP link that connects the client device to the Internet, said call request including data identifying parties for said call; utilizing the Internet to access a public directory on a messaging network to obtain data identifying terminal of at least one of said parties, generating a connection message, in response to said call request, including data identifying terminals for said parties; and utilizing said IP link to establish a call between said terminals in response to said connection message.

Support for the new claims can be found, e.g., at paragraph [0078] of the published U.S. patent application, and throughout the remainder of the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

The reasoning provided above in connection with the previous claims applies with equal force to establish that the new claims are also patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application. Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 439-2514 if there are any questions.

Dated: November 5, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic Signature: /Reza Mollaaghababa/
Reza Mollaaghababa
Registration No.: 43,810
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP
World Trade Center West
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2604
(617) 439-2514
(617) 310-9514 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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